

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 363

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Miss Black Tennessee USA
Scholarship Pageant.

WHEREAS, it is fitting to recognize those events that encourage and ardently support excellence; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two years ago a dream manifested in the formation of the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant, a national platform for African American women to celebrate their identity;

WHEREAS, the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant promotes African-American women building their own legacies, self-esteem and characters; and

WHEREAS, as an auxiliary to the Miss Black USA Organization, many young women have traveled the globe, visiting such places as Gambia, Africa, Las Vegas, and Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, these extraordinary women have enjoyed many memorable experiences, including luxurious spa treatments, full makeup photo sessions, and meeting celebrities, members of the government, and other like-minded intellectuals; and

WHEREAS, the reigning Miss Black Tennessee 2008-09, Duanisha "LaShan" Mathews, is a graduate student at Middle Tennessee State University, where she shall earn her Master of Science degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. Her plans include the pursuit of a doctorate in physical therapy; and

WHEREAS, LaShan is the founder of Savior Faire Productions and a member of the prestigious Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc; a member of the Middle Tennessee Performing Arts Company, which she served as President and Treasurer; the Senior Dance Company; Blue Moves Modern Dance Company; and

WHEREAS, she has received special recognition from the Debbie Allen Dance Company and the Gloria Williams Dance Company, and stood as the Vice President of Student Support Services for the Area Government, as a student Ambassador for Middle Tennessee State University, and as the Treasurer for the Black Business Student Association; and

WHEREAS, the major goals of the pageant competition are to award scholarships to deserving young women, to provide a showcase that promotes intelligence, strong character, and perseverance, and to enhance cultural pride and community pride and it is fitting that they be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this body welcomes back for its fourth year the Miss Black Tennessee USA Scholarship Pageant, which takes place September 6, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body congratulates Duanisha LaShan Mathews upon being selected Miss Black Tennessee 2008-09.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Elaine Fisher Cato, Director of Operations, Miss Black Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, with this final clause omitted from such copy.